4:Phillips E-4,5 (1956-1957) 1966
AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bang Chan'

In addition to these widespread national patterns, Bang Chan has certain characteristics that seem relatively distinctive of villages of the Central Plain. Not of least importance is the demographic arrangement of the community: either isolated homesteads surrounded by rice fields and connected to larger canals by small tributaries or groups of households strung out along both sides of the canals. The former pattern is more commonplace and historically more recent, and is the result of an expanding population trying to live on a land that has been so committed to the commercialized cultivation of rice that the only available house sites are on the fields themselves. This "typical Central Plain" pattern contrasts with the "cluster" type villages found in the North and Northeast (deYoung 1955) where houses are integrated into compact communities around which are located the rice fields. Although it is difficult to draw precise relationships between demographic arrangements and psychological characteristics, it is noteworthy that the isolated locale of so many Bang Chan households is not out of keeping with the independent and individualistic propensities of the villagers. As one villager expressed it, "If people live far away from each other, there will not be any trouble."

Related to the above pattern and characteristic of other communities of the Central region (cf. Kaufman 1960) is the absence among village residents of any strong sense of identification with the needs of their community as a whole. Except for religious activities and the reciprocal work groups organized for rice transplanting and harvesting—the rewards for which are directly personal—the villagers simply are not predisposed to participate in communal projects. Thus, activities which require large-scale coöperation or organization to be effective—clearing or deepening canals, repairing the unusable road that leads from the main highway to the school, building a playground for the school—are either not carried out or are effected only with extreme difficulty. Although a few villagers recognize these as defects of social organization, it is clear that the majority find it easier to live with them than to try to change the basic institutional framework that sustains them; maintaining their own freedom of action is simply more important, and more culturally "natural," to the villagers than getting involved in public service projects. Again, this pattern seems to contrast with that found in the villages of the North (deYoung 1955) where individuals regularly contribute labor to their communities by repairing village streets and maintaining irrigation systems, even when such efforts require coöperation between adjacent villages.

The inability of Bang Chaners to organize coöperative projects is undoubtedly abetted by the formal governmental structure of the village which, although perhaps more of an administrative nightmare than is normally found elsewhere in the Central Plain, is in its organizational

54

125 [369] [829] [793] [792] 42.a. IF DISAGREE: For what various reasons do you disagree?

If Disagreement (See code at end)

43. Do you agree or disagree that all priests are honest and moral men?

1. Agree	197
2. Disagree	90
0. Undecided	40
— No Answer	6

[829] 44. Do you think it is right or wrong for a Thai to marry a Chinese?

1. Right	55
2. Wrong	182
3. Unascertainable	91
— No Answer	5

[775] 45. Do you believe that ghosts bother people? Strongly, somewhat, or not at all?

4. Strongly	40
5. Somewhat	136
6. Not at all	124
7. Unascertainable	28
— No Answer	5

[653] 46.a. During the past year, have there been any activities for the public welfare in BC Wat, or not, to which you contributed labor?

1. Yes	232
2. No	102

b. IF YES: For what various activities did you contribute labor?

_____

_____

c. During the past year or so, have there been any activities for the public welfare in the wat, or not, to which you contributed money or goods?

1. Yes	264
2. No	63
— No Answer	6

[651] d. IF YES: For what various activities did you contribute money or goods?

_____

_____

47.a. How about activities not connected with the wat or with religious ceremonies in the home. During the past year, have there been any such activities for the public welfare in BC-KY, to which you contributed labor, or not?

1. Yes	54
2. No	232
3. Unascertainable	7

47.b. IF YES: For what various activities did you contribute labor? 125
(See code at end) [853]

c. During the past year, have there been any public welfare activities, not connected with the wat or with religious ceremonies in the home, or not, to which you contributed money or goods?

1. Yes	128
2. No	197
3. Unascertainable	8

d. IF YES: For what various activities did you contribute money or goods?
(See code at end)

48.a. Have you attended the ceremony of wisaka bucha at Wat BC every year, or only in some years, or only once in many years, or never? [796]

8. Every year	156
9. Only in some years	135
X. Once in many years	21
Y. Never	14
0. Unascertainable	7

b. Have you attended the ceremony of gilding the Buddha's footprint at Wat BC every year, or only in some years, or only once in many years, or never?

1. Every year	225
2. Only in some years	62
3. Once in many years	17
4. Never	9
5. Unascertainable	20

49.a. Excuse me, this is a strange question, but do you own a pair of shoes? [291]

6. Yes	136
7. No	197

b. Of what various materials are your shoes made?

8. Leather	65
9. Cloth, canvas	87
X. Other, specify _____	11
0. Unascertainable	
— No Answer	1

50.a. In your household, is there a hatchet, or not? [412]

1. Yes, hatchet	309
2. No	24

b. (In your household), is there a pressure lamp, or not? [416]

3. Yes, pressure lamp	188
4. No	145

c. (In your household), is there a flashlight or not?

5. Yes, flashlight	271
6. No	61
— No Answer	1

62

		Qu 46D	Qu 41B
125	1. Too old to move, old man	33	12
621	2. Easy to make living here, more comfortable, happy here	36	8
	3. Loves place, born here, would like to die here	37	26
	4. Doesn't like to leave area	10	4
	5. Relatives are here, likes neighbors, family here	32	28
	6. Own land	19	15
	7. Can't move her house, worried about housing in new place	7	1
	8. Change career, use other occupation	2	18
	9. Other: Big family, had to move too far, wouldn't know how to find a new place, people here one can trust, will help you	39	13
	0. D.A.	130	205
	X. No answer, unascertainable	7	23

		Qu 47B (labor contrib)	Qu 47D (money contrib)
125			
653	4. D.A.	238	202
	5. School	23	51
	6. Bridge	36	36
	7. Canal	16	8
	8. Road	13	23
	9. Other: district office, festival shelter, marriage of neighbors	8	8
	0. N.A.	1	9
	X. Rest house	5	5

		Qu 66B
125	1. Make merit, give alms, buy a golden belt, build a mosque	172
525	2. Purchase land	91
	3. Trade, build a market, open rice mill	34
	4. Spend for the family, unspecified, improve group condition	68
	5. Build a house	40
	6. Purchase of farming equipment or stock	22
	7. Pay debt	7
	8.	
	9. Other: Offer some to Thai army, to be carpenter, keep money in bank and collect interest, educate children, benefit country	44
	0. D.A.	39
	X. No Answer	2

Question 42.c. (Cont'd)

Need for Money in Bangkok (Only happy there when have plenty of money)	6	125
Amount of effort in earning a living (Have to work every day there	4	369
Other reasons (Too many poor people there, many illnesses there, the life of the people there depends on the farmer, people from Bangkok always go to the country when anything bad happens, people can be happy both places, different people have diffcront hearts)	12	829
No Answer	4	
Don't know	5	

Question 46.b. For what various activities did you contribute labor? 125

Earth work		653
Earth work at Wat	18	
Earth work at Mosque	7	
Earth work, unspecified (digging dirt, filling low places, digging Klong, loading and unloading earth and bricks)	53	
Cement Work		
Cement work at Wat (moved cement bags, laid concrete floor)	12	
Cement w ork, unspecified (building cement sidewalks, helped make concrete, poured concrete)	14	
Building and Repairs		
Building sala (pavilion, repairing pavilion)	51	
Building mosque (repairing Surao porch)	8	
Built priest house, construction work in wat, latrine in Wat, repair crematorium	8	
Building bridge	21	
Building road	13	
Constructionwork, unspecified (carried posts, repair a building, carpentry)	7	
Services		
At Wat fair (helped cook and serve, helped manage, sweeping)	27	
At Surao fair (helped cook and serve)	3	
Services, unspecified (boiled water, cooked, carried water)	15	
Guilding the gold leaf, miscellaneous labor at footprint guilding festival)	7	
Priest's funeral (cooked, helped at cremation)	7	
Other (served at Katlin ceremony, solicited money for Wat)	3	

Question 46.d. For what various activities did you contribute money or goods? 125

To the Wat, unspecified	19	431
Contribution, unspecified	19	651
Construction activities		
To build pavilion (sala), to repair pavilion	57	
To make path, build street on Wat grounds	27	